

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the written description:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-5 as follows:

The present invention relates to a porous starch-based pigment, according to the preamble of Claim 1, or filler product, characterized in that it comprises a stable foam, which contains foam bubbles, the average size of which is less than approximately 10 micrometres.

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 7-8 as follows:

The present invention also relates to a method ~~according to the preamble of Claim 2, and to use according to Claim 12:~~ of manufacturing a product described above, and use of the starch-based foam as a pigment and/or filler for paper and cardboard.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 22 as follows:

More specifically, the product according to the present invention is characterized ~~by what is stated in the characterizing part of Claim 1:~~ in that it comprises a stable foam, which contains foam bubbles, the average size of which is less than approximately 10 micrometres. The method according to the present invention is, in turn, characterized by ~~what is stated in the characterizing part of Claim 2:~~ the method of making the above product. Considerable advantages can be achieved with the present invention. Thus, as stated above, according to the invention it is possible to prepare by processing from organic natural materials (for example starch) microporous foam which can be stabilized in the form of micro capsules. By optimizing the inner diameter and the thickness of the wall

Amendments and Reply to Restriction Requirement

of the micro capsules, the light scattering ability of the material is maximized, which means that the structure has good opacity properties (generally over 80 %, especially over 85 %). Characteristic of the micro capsule structure is also that the strength properties are good considering its mass. In addition, because the material has a microporous structure it has good absorption properties, which are essential for the application.